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COVID-19 VACCINE

KNOW THE FACTS

How will the vaccine be distributed?

Phase 1 (Dec 2020 - Feb 2021)

- COVID facing healthcare workers
- Nursing homes
- 1st responders
- Congregate care settings (including corrections and shelters)
- Home-based health care workers
- Non-COVID facing health care workers

Phase 2 (Feb - Mar 2021)

- Individuals with 2+ co-morbid conditions (high risk for COVID-19 complications)
- Essential workers
- Early education, K-12, transit, grocery, utility, food and agriculture, sanitation, public works, and public health workers

Phase 3 (April 2021)

- General Public

Where can I get the vaccine once I am eligible?

Possible locations include your place of employment, the pharmacy, and a public health clinic.

Am I immune if I had COVID-19?

Evidence suggests that people who have had COVID-19 have some immunity for up to 3 months. People who have had COVID-19 should still get the vaccine, as long as they have recovered.

Is there a cost to get the vaccine?

The vaccine is being provided free of charge to all individuals by the federal government.

Have questions about the vaccine?
Call 2-1-1 or email
COVID-19-Vaccine-Plan-MA@mass.gov

Can I still get COVID-19 if I get the vaccine?

While it is still possible to contract COVID-19 getting vaccinated will lower your risk and help reduce the severity of your illness if you do get sick.

How do we know if the vaccine is safe?

The vaccine has been FDA approved for emergency use. Clinical trials have shown that the vaccine is safe for individuals over 18.

Why do I need to get vaccinated twice?

Both of the currently available vaccines require 2 doses (shots) to help ensure adequate immune response. It takes time for our bodies to build protection after any vaccine. COVID-19 vaccines that require 2 shots may not protect you until a week or two after your 2nd shot.

What can I expect during my appointment?

- Wear a mask.
- You will be monitored on-site for 15 minutes following the injection.
- You should receive a vaccination card with info about your vaccine and when your next dose is due.

What can I expect after getting the vaccine?

You may have some side effects lasting 2-3 days, such as pain/swelling at the injection site, fatigue, soreness, fever/chills, and headaches. These side effects are normal signs that your body is building protection. Side effects can be reported through the **V-safe** smart phone app. If you do not have access to a smart phone, call the individual/company that gave you your vaccine.

Do I still need to wear a mask and social distance after I get the vaccine?

Yes. While the vaccine lowers your risk for getting sick with COVID-19, it is still possible to develop and spread COVID-19.

Can the vaccine give me COVID-19?

No. The vaccine does not contain live virus and helps protect you by creating an antibody response in your body without having to become sick with COVID-19.

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